

# Characters with Character: Responsible Decisions?

## Overview:

Students will examine the decisions made by characters in a literary text and analyze the results of demonstrating (or not demonstrating) responsibility when making a decision.

## Materials:

- Copies of current class text
- Responsible Decisions? handout

## Handouts:

- [Responsible Decisions?](#)

## Procedure:

1. Review the pillar of [Responsibility](#) on our website and how it applies to making a decision. (Responsibility: Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes. Exercise self-control. Strive for excellence and self-improvement. Plan ahead. Set a good example for others. Be self-reliant, prudent, proactive, persistent, and hard-working.)
2. On the board, review the difference between a character in a story and the concept of moral character/character traits.
3. Divide students into groups. Assign each group a major character from the current class text.
4. Groups should examine the decisions made by their character and complete the Responsible Decisions? handout.
5. Each group presents or shares what they found out about their character's decisions and level of responsibility.
6. Have a wrap-up discussion to determine how the characters' responsible (or irresponsible) decisions affect the plot of the story or reveal possible themes.

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## McREL standards

### Language Arts

**Standard 6.** Uses skills and strategies to read a variety of literary texts

**Level IV, Benchmark 4.** Analyzes the simple and complex actions (e.g., internal/external conflicts) between main and subordinate characters in literary works containing complex character structures

<http://www.mcrel.org/Standards-benchmarks/>